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6. (Amended) The plant activator according to claim 1, which is a plant growth controlling agent.

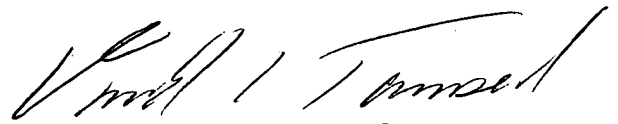
REMARKS

The amendments to Claims 3, 4 and 6 are made to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in proper U.S. format. The effect of the foregoing amendments relate only to matters of form, and the substance of the claims remain the same.

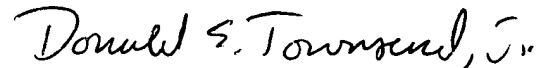
The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1-9 are in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSIONS OF AMENDED CLAIMS 3, 4 and 6

3. (Amended) The plant activator according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the C₄-C₂₄ ketol fatty acid contains one to six carbon-carbon double bonds, such that the number of the double bonds does not exceed the number of carbon-carbon bonds in the ketol fatty acid.

4. (Amended) The plant activator according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [through 3], wherein the ketol fatty acid contains 18 carbon atoms, and two carbon-carbon double bonds.

6. (Amended) The plant activator according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [through 5], which is a plant growth controlling agent.